

# GIFT GUIDE 2012



tuesday, december 4, 2012



## Tips for enjoying alcohol-free New Year's Eve



Kelly Iverson

Attention all underage students: I feel your pain, as I, too, am not allowed to drink. I would like nothing more than to have a glass of wine with my Christmas dinner, however, this may not be an option this year for many of us.

It's not Christmas dinner that I am worried about as much as New Year's Eve. The expectation to get obliterated and celebrate with a New Year's kiss isn't as plausible as most of us would like. Without alcohol, New Year's Eve may seem like a simple turning of the year. I would like to think that the end of the year 2012 can still be a party, however, regardless of whether or not alcohol is involved.

### 1. Love what you are wearing

I find that one issue many people have at parties is that they drink because they lack confidence. One way of solving this problem is by simply loving what you are wearing — feeling and looking good. There is no shame

in going all out while getting ready for a New Year's party. Don't be too shy to go get your makeup done at the mall or take hours to do your hair. The better you feel, the less likely you are to feel the need to disguise what you think you look like with booze.

Another plus to not drinking is that girls can wear painfully high heels without the possibility of falling down a staircase. The drunker you are, the more likely you are to eat it in a fabulous pair of heels. The inability to drink gives an opportunity to wear whatever the party goer wants, with the least chance of having a wardrobe mishap.

### 2. Do not rely on a New Year's kiss to have a good time

It is hard to have a good time when all you can worry about is who the lucky person will be when the clock strikes twelve. I find that the more people are worried about a kiss, the more likely they are to want to get so drunk they are unable to stand up, let alone make out. Not relying on a New Year's kiss goes hand in hand with the confidence factor. Knowing that a kiss will not make or break your night is reassuring.

It is also not attractive to rely on a kiss, get drunk and cry about it later. The more intoxicated you are, the more emotional you are.

A drama-free New Year's party is always a good one.

### 3. Surround yourself with people you love

The want for alcohol can slip a person's mind when experiencing a quality time. By surrounding yourself with good friends who you are comfortable with, the need to drink can be less pressing. Being around new people can be intimidating, and having a good group of friends to be your wingmen (or wingwomen) can be helpful. Starting conversations with people without an alcoholic beverage leads to much better conversation.

### 4. Prepare really good food

The more full you are, the more effort it takes to get tipsy. Forget the drink and have a good meal with friends before going out. The holidays bring about meals that consist of amazing turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes. Take those leftovers to a party and they will be a bigger hit than any drink would.

### 5. You can party hop

The inability to drink leaves underage people with the ability to drive. One good thing about this, is that if one party is not living up to your expectations, you can feel free to leave.

After inhaling a couple of alcoholic drinks you are stuck at one party. By not drinking,

you have the ability and freedom to go wherever you please. On New Year's there are usually many places to go, and by not drinking, it is possible to leave without finding a ride from someone else.

### 6. Hang out with family

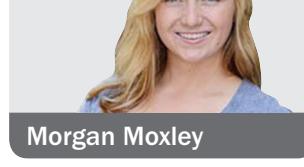
Many people have family members that are younger than them. Instead of going out, take it upon yourself to spend New Year's the old-fashioned way: banging pots and pans on your front porch.

Not only will your family appreciate the sibling love, but also drinking a glass of sparkling cider and watching the ball drop in Times Square on TV is relaxing and legal.

**Kelly Iverson** is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).



## How to pick that perfect gift for your boyfriend, girlfriend this holiday season



Picking the perfect gift for your partner can be tricky. What follows is some helpful tips for men to shop for their girlfriends, and for women to shop for their boyfriends.

What



do women want for a Christmas gift? You could try asking her, but you don't want to spoil the surprise and you want to seem like you know everything about her. Here are some suggestions to help you feel confident about picking out that perfect gift for that perfect someone.

Ask her friends and family. Nobody knows your gal better than her closest girlfriends. Women talk to each other about

what they like and things they want. If you're lucky, some of her friends may even go on your shopping excursion with you. Your girlfriend's family is great to ask because they've been buying gifts for her since she was born, so they probably have a good sense of her likes and dislikes. They might even know what she hopes to receive from you.

If you are feeling risky and want to buy your girlfriend clothes, make sure you know her sizes before going into the store. If you know her favorite store, then you are ahead of the game. Try to know some things she bought recently so you can familiarize yourself with her preferences. If your girlfriend is a big online shopper, she might have already made a wish list on a site like [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) where you can easily search for it.

If you are out shopping with your girlfriend and you are wondering about certain items, gauge her reactions. If she likes what you are suggesting, you have found her present.

You can also always fall back on jewelry. It's not the most creative, but you can make it more personalized by having her name engraved on it.  
I don't  
**GIFT**  
pg. 5

## Religious tolerance should be based on knowledge, respect, not fear of being politically correct



It's Christmas time again. This means Christmas lights lining the streets, Christmas decorations lining the walls of stores and Christmas stockings lining our hearths — activities which leaves out religious minorities in the U.S., such as people of the Jewish faith.

It's easy for the majority to ignore the minority except for when they feel an obligation to be politically correct. Most people in the majority today are aware of Hanukkah as a holiday. Unfortunately, just because we're aware of it and OK with other people celebrating it doesn't mean we actually understand its significance.

Typically, when one mentions Hanukkah, several misconceptions perpetuated by society pop into my head. "It's one of the most important Jewish holidays! It's like the Jewish Christmas! Kids get presents for eight days because the oil in the lamp lasted for eight days!"

However, how much of this is actually true?

The truth is, Hanukkah is not the "Jewish Christmas." Traditionally, it's not even a major holiday. Hanukkah is a minor holiday to commemorate the rededication of the Temple after an attempted religious genocide by the Greeks. At the time of the rededication, there was hardly any oil left in the lamp that hadn't been defiled by the Greeks, but the menorah was supposed to burn throughout the night every night.

Miraculously, it burned for eight days. Hanukkah is said to celebrate not only this miracle, but also the rededication of the Temple and the continuing existence of Judaism.

Historically, children aren't supposed to receive presents during Hanukkah. They're supposed to receive a traditional gift of "gelt," consisting of small amounts of money. Gift-giving is a fairly recent add on that started

in the 1950s because parents didn't want their children to feel left out of the Christmas fanfare.

While Hanukkah does not have as great a religious significance as other Jewish holidays, it is now one of the most culturally significant. It now stands for religious tolerance. Both Jews and Christians are respectful of each other's right to worship at this time of year and join hands in the brotherhood of humanity instead of arguing about differences.

However, if we wish to celebrate religious tolerance during the holiday season, we must actually practice it. This involves understanding the actual significance of the holiday. For those of us who are not Jewish, to claim that Hanukkah is the "Jewish Christmas" and therefore has an equivalent religious significance to them is ignorant and even somewhat arrogant.

Hanukkah is a minor Jewish holiday, and there are many others that have much more religious significance. This includes all of the major holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur, which most people know absolutely nothing about.

I understand the majority's desire to make sure that people who don't celebrate Christmas aren't excluded from the warmth of the holiday season, but to arbitrarily take one of their holidays and make assumptions about its importance just because it occurs around the time of one of their own most significant religious holidays is disrespectful.

The proper way to include people is to actually learn about their holidays, their faith and what they're celebrating, instead of dressing up their holiday so we can feel better about making such a loud fanfare about our own.

Hopefully, someday, religious tolerance won't be something that we automatically prescribe to in order to be considered politically correct and socially acceptable. Instead, maybe people will actually be interested in learning about and understanding the importance of significant holidays of other religions.

Hanukkah starts this year on Dec. 9. Why not do a little reading up on it beforehand?

**Cara Hillstock** is a sophomore in English. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).

# 8 steps to throwing perfect apocalypse party



Cara Hillstock

The apocalypse is scheduled to occur this month on Dec. 21, yet it seems most people have forgotten about our imminent doom. Have you given any thought to how you will live your last day on this Earth? Why not consider throwing an apocalypse party?

Hmm, what's that? You've never thrown an apocalypse party before? Fear not, this wonderful how-to guide will be your best friend as you count down your final hours.

#### Step 1: Pick a location

It's the last day on Earth. There will be absolutely no penalties for hosting your party anywhere you want. Dream big. Your apartment? Your parents' place? Disney World? The Playboy Mansion?

If you can break into it and assemble a mob large enough to deter any form of organized law that hasn't yet disbanded into anarchy, it's yours.

#### Step 2: Invite your friends... and everyone else

Your last day on

Earth is no time to be excluding people based on petty conflicts. Who cares if that girl stole your pencil, your boyfriend or your best friend's life? The point of this party is for it to be epic, a last hurrah, the celebration of all life on Earth.

And don't forget to invite anybody that you've left something unspoken to. It's time to tell your crush you love her and your sister that you overfed and killed her rabbit. No regrets, my friend.

#### Step 3: Prepare a feast

Are there any foods you've always wanted to try but never have? Always wondered what that food you're allegedly allergic to tastes like? Want to gorge on an endless amount of cake

and cookies? Maybe you just have a hankering for Chinese food? Take your credit card and go to town. Tour the food stores of your neighborhood Dillons, Wal-Mart or university.

You won't have to pay for the food if you're not alive tomorrow, right? Just make sure you get enough for everybody. And consider going outside of your comfort food zone. You might as well get to know food from other cultures that will soon cease to exist.

#### Step 4: Prepare a speech

People who come to your party may not be as 100 percent certain that the world is going to end as you are. As such, they probably won't live it up as if it

is. It is your job to come to their rescue and give them a rousing enough opening speech that they believe the world is going to end, lose all their inhibitions and become dedicated to living up their last day.

Remember, you are trying to inspire a drunken mass of sin, so make sure your speech is good. And don't worry about stage fright — no one will be around to remember it anyway.

#### Step 5: Organize Activities

Hopefully your speech will produce an increasingly group-minded mob. Design activities to take advantage of this last short shot of power. Dancing, singing hymns, mass orgies, you name it. Consider attempting to

take over the world. What's stopping you?

#### Step 6: Don't forget about the Earth

This is, after all, Earth's last day. Take some time to prepare a memorable ceremony. Perhaps create a PowerPoint of the high points of Earth's history, or maybe a video talking about all of your favorite things.

Project some beautiful pictures of Earth onto a wall while guests give toasts and relive their fondest memories. Consider adding an interpretive dance, rap song or eulogy dedicated to the massive hunk of rock we have all come to know, love and take advantage of. Thanks, Earth.

#### Step 7: Pass out

If you've followed this guide exactly, you are now ruling the world and your party is probably the most epic and destructive thing since the Mongol Empire. The world is ending tomorrow, and it's bound to be painful if you're awake for it.

Therefore you should find some way to pass out. Sleeping pills, alcohol, slamming your head against a textbook, anything to ensure that you are out like a light and your last memories on Earth are of having a rocking good time.

Congratulations. See you in the next world.

#### Step 8: The next day?

In the event of this being a false apocalypse, please burn this guide and claim insanity. Then run. Run like hell.

Cara Hillstock is a sophomore in English. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).



Illustration by Erin Logan

## Fun ways to make it through long holiday trips: car games, CDs, conversation

Jerry Yaussi  
staff writer

Visiting friends and family is a great way to spend your holidays. After working hard in your college studies for a semester, it can be incredibly satisfying to interact with the people you love in person, rather than by phone, email

or Skype. For many people in college though, getting to see them often requires a long trip.

While some people live as little as two hours away, others often have to drive all the way to the other side of the state, or even across the country. Even when you get home you may be stuck

going on a second trip to visit extended family. While some say the journey is half the fun, it can turn into a surefire recipe for boredom without the proper preparation.

So how can you alleviate that boredom? Bring company. Having someone to talk to can make any situation entertaining and engaging.

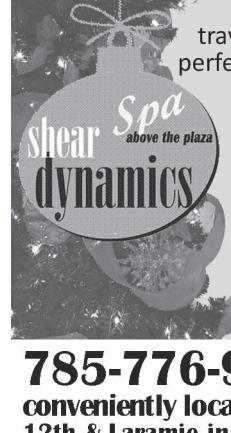
Whether it's a parent, sibling, friend or someone else, being able to share the journey can make all the difference.

If you're not a natural conversationalist it may be a good idea to look up some topics to talk about on the trip. If you both share an interest in movies, video games or books, it can lead to great, long con-

versations. Try to steer clear of any hot topics that may lead to bad blood between the two of you. The last thing you want is to have an argument that lasts the entire trip.

If you do run out of conversation (or if you really just can't think of anything to say), then there are always travel games. Simple games like "I

Spy" may seem cheesy, but they can still be a good way to kill some time. There's also the license plate game. Especially good for cross country trips, this game can be an excellent time waster, as you and your travel companion try to identify as many states as possible. You can even try to come up with your own games.



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## Shopping locally benefits community, offers unique options



Laura Thacker

Sometimes holiday shopping can really be a pain; the long lines, the crowded stores and the pressure to find that perfect gift can create an atmosphere that can be wholly unpleasant. While I truly enjoy giving gifts, my experiences in stores like Wal-Mart and Target usually overwhelm me so much that I often end up grabbing generic gifts and heading out the door as fast as possible.

A few years ago, I began to gravitate toward smaller local businesses for my holiday shopping, and my attitude toward buying gifts for my friends and family changed dramatically. Local businesses are much more likely to have more one-of-a-kind gifts, rather than mass-produced items that everyone and their mother already own.

Local businesses, for me, offer more of a low-pressure shopping experience, meaning I experience less anxiety and thus spend more time finding a gift that will fit the personalities of my friends and family. Employees are often more familiar with the merchandise, and can offer help in an environment less stressful and more personalized, which makes locating gifts easier. I've also found that items bought from local businesses are often, in my opinion, more well-crafted and long-lasting than mass-produced merchandise.

In my own experience, some of the best gifts I've received have come from local sources, from an adorable owl necklace to hilarious cards that fit my tastes better than anything you'd be likely to find at a large chain.

Supporting local business is helpful to the local economy as well. According to a Nov. 22, 2011, Forbes article by Deborah Sweeney, for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 gets returned to the community, either in employee paychecks, or through taxes. An Oct. 21, 2011, U.S. News article by Rachel Koning Beals corroborates this claim, adding that, in comparison, one Chicago-based study found that only \$43 of every \$100 spent at chain stores remains in the local economy.

Sweeney describes local businesses as "the backbone of the community," and I agree with this outlook. When you spend your money locally, you are supporting the people who live next door, rather than adding to the already enormous paycheck of a corporate CEO. A commitment to the well-being of your community can be crucial during hard economic times, and spending your money at local businesses is an easy



photo illustration by Evert Nelson

Money spent at local businesses is more likely to return to the community than money spent at chain retailers.

way to show that commitment.

Beals points out in her article that local stores often turn to other local sources when it comes to setting up and maintaining their businesses.

"For example, by supporting a local clothing boutique, a consumer is also supporting a local attorney, tax preparer, and printer. Local businesses tend to source small manufacturing and banking needs closer to home as well," Beals said in the article.

So, which would you choose: a pleasant, low-pressure shopping experience that offers unique gift choices and a chance to support your community, or a crowded store with long lines and generic and sometimes poorly-made items, where your money is helping to line the pocket of a billionaire CEO rather than going back into the community? For me, shopping locally is almost always the correct choice, and I encourage others to try it out this holiday season.

Laura Thacker is a graduate student in English and women's studies. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com)

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## Local residents reflect on first New Year's Eve without television's Dick Clark

Bria Dansby  
contributing writer

With New Year's around the corner, some people will notice the absence of legendary radio and television personality Dick Clark. Clark hosted the annual television program, "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve," which celebrated the upcoming year with concerts and a crystal ball lowering at midnight in Times Square. Clark passed away in April from a heart attack at the age of 82.

"It was very sad because he was an American music icon," said Marilyn Johnson, Manhattan resident. "Clark helped integrate musical acts of all races."

Although the city of Manhattan has a countdown for the New Year in Aggieland, it does not compare to the New York surroundings of Clark's show.

"Watching Clark's show lets me see familiar surroundings," Johnson said. "By being from New Jersey, I miss seeing the bright lights, tall buildings and the large crowds."

While Clark was popular

among older individuals, students at K-State also enjoyed his annual specials.

"I thoroughly enjoyed his specials," said Larry Mitchell, senior in political science. "He was one of the constant presences that you could always count on, year in and year out."

For Junction City resident Briscoe Moats, Clark's program was a tradition for his family growing up.

"As a kid, my parents would fix snacks and everyone would just enjoy the music and recapping events of the year," Moats said.

Following his massive stroke in 2004, Clark's health deteriorated and his speech became slurred. Although he was not able to host the show that year, he returned the following year with the aid of his wife, Kari Wigton, and co-host Ryan Seacrest.

"I felt mixed emotions seeing him like that," Moats said. "I felt proud of Clark for continuing what he loved, but sad because it would not be the same."

With the coming New Year's holiday marking the first show since Clark's death,

ABC plans to revamp the show. This year's special will be hosted by Ryan Seacrest and will include performances by Taylor Swift, Florence and the Machine, Blink-182, Beyoncé and others.

"The show needs to go back to being about music," Moats said. "The show used to have a bigger variety of performers."

Prior to this year's show, ABC will telecast a tribute in honor of Clark and his accomplishments.

"I think it is a good idea to honor his legacy, especially since he has been doing 'New Years Rockin' Eve' for years," said Quiana Miller, Junction City resident.

Despite the loss of a legend, many will continue to watch other shows that will include a countdown to midnight similar to Clark's.

"I think that Ryan Seacrest will do a decent job, but he will not replace Dick Clark," Mitchell said. "It may take years for the 'Rockin' New Year's Eve' to replace the prestige of Dick Clark."



Courtesy Photo

*Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.*

## Santa Claus myth makes Christmas more magical



Illustration by Parker Wilhelm



Sydnie Olliff

At any age, Christmas is a magical time of year. The rainbow of lights donning a multitude of rooftops, the joyful and triumphant sounds of music and the smell of gingerbread cookies wafting through a home adorned with holly and mistletoe add to the magical quality that makes this time of year unlike any other.

Children feel this magic more powerfully with the mystery of Santa Claus. Adding to this magic are family traditions surrounding him, whether the traditions are writing letters to be sent to the North Pole, the ritual of leaving milk and cookies or receiving a gag-gift lump of coal when a child has been a bit naughty instead of nice.

Everyone remembers their first Christmas without this wonderful charade, the

Christmas after they uncovered the big secret about Santa, and the magic paled a little bit.

Maybe you accidentally found the exact wrapping paper that Santa used in your parent's closet, or you finally noticed that Santa's handwriting was incredibly similar to your mom's or your parents confessed to playing the part of the big guy.

This inevitably led to the uncovering of the secret identities of the Easter Bunny and Tooth Fairy, and suddenly your whole childhood crumbles beneath you. Granted, Christmas isn't about Santa Claus, but the holiday seems a little less bright when you realize an entire part of your life was a lie.

In families with multiple children, the truth spreads like a virus as one youngster discovers Santa's identity and reveals it to the rest of the family. Or even worse, reveals the truth to their peers at school as the parents grit their teeth and await the flurry of questions and accusations.

The magic of Santa Claus, however, can sometimes

be preserved by a younger sibling or cousin that hasn't learned the awful truth; one that has been spared the anguish of learning a childhood story isn't what it seems.

Pretending for their sake brings back a glimmer of the childhood euphoria, and you may find yourself listening for the pitter patter of reindeer hooves on your rooftop.

In my family, there is only one true believer left among us. My youngest cousin is only eight while the rest of us range from ages 15 to 26, and we're doing everything we can to keep his faith alive.

If that means gobbling cookies while dreams of sugarplums dance in his head, or making sooty tracks leading from the fireplace to the tree or writing him a response from the North Pole, I'll do it, because to me, Christmas is much more enjoyable when it is sprinkled with the magic of Santa Claus.

Sydnie Olliff is a junior in English. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).

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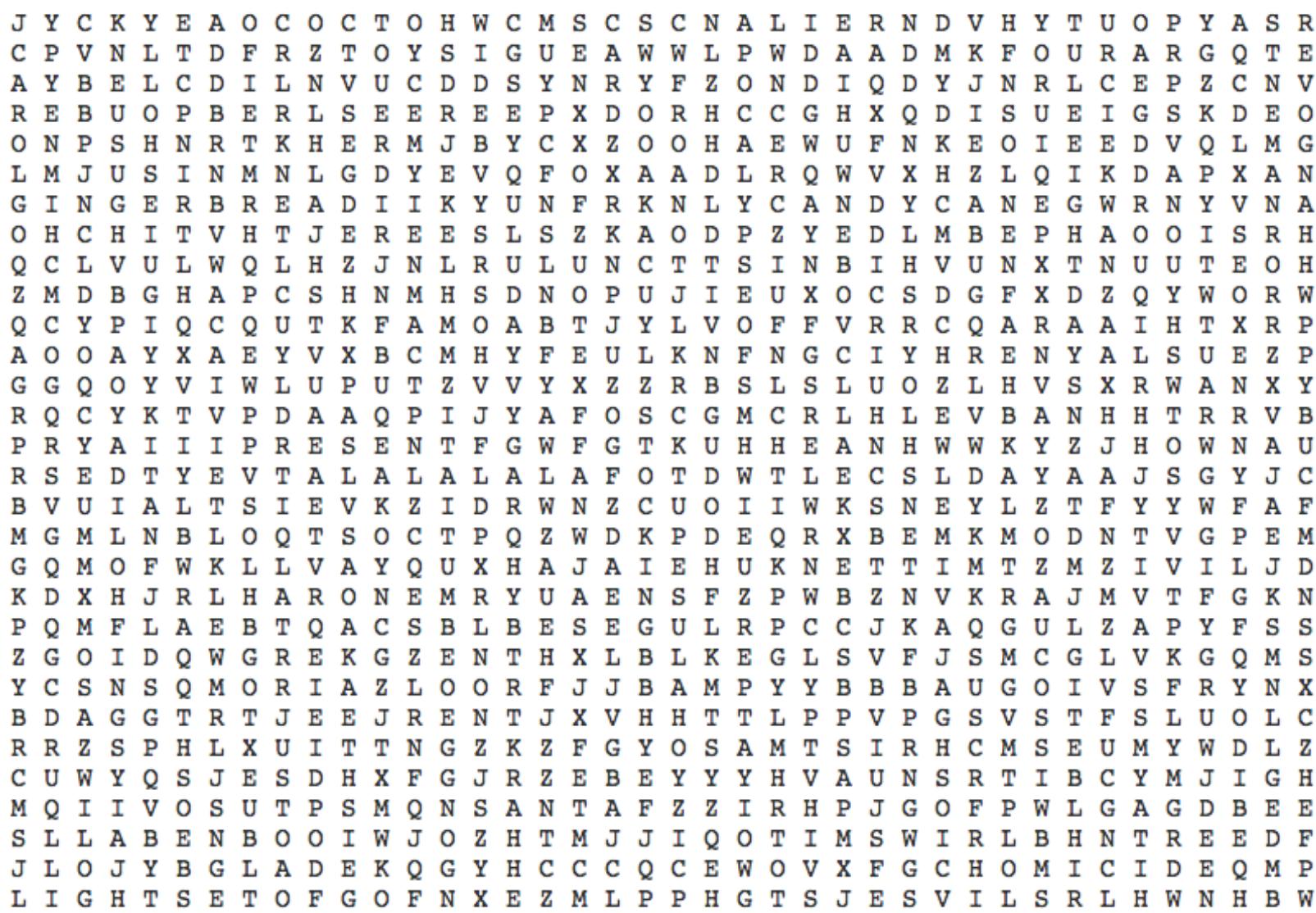
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## GIFTS | Personalized jewelry, trips make great presents

Continued from page 1

like buying a girl jewelry because, first off, a guy's taste is a lot different than a girl's," said Brion Bircher, sophomore in political science. "I like to come up with creative gifts, like going on a date to places she hasn't gone before."

According to a Dec. 13, 2010, article by CBS, an alternative for women who "have enough stuff" are personalized and customized gift experiences. One suggestion they gave was hiring a personal chef that can either teach the two of you to cook, or just cook for a romantic evening together. It also recommended a day at a spa for some pampering. If you want some quality time with her, join in on the relaxation.

"We are in college, so I know a lot of us don't have a lot of money," said Alex Gaines, sophomore in theatre. "Cooking a nice meal and

watching a movie is always a great gift."

For the women, finding a gift for your man can be easy and simple. Gifts such as cologne, beer or sports paraphernalia are always the safe go-to gifts.

Cologne can be found in almost any department store, such as Macy's or JC Penny's, and prices can range anywhere from \$20 to as much as \$300.

A sports-themed gift would be another great idea for your man if he is outdoorsy or a big sports fan. If you are willing to spend a little extra on his gift, then tickets to a game of his favorite team would be a great idea. If you don't have the cash to spend on tickets, a T-shirt or hoodie would be a great alternative.

If you are looking for something unique this year and have a bit of cash to spend, experiences rather than material gifts are great. Things such as a stock car ride

along, a food tour or private hot air balloon ride would be a fun experience that the two of you could share together.

In Kansas City, the options to drive a stock car or ride along in one are available, starting at \$145 a person. The food tour could be an ideal date night for college students with a price of \$70 for the tour. If you wanted to go above and beyond, then the private hot air balloon ride for \$650 would a great choice.

"I don't really care what I get. Christmas has turned too materialistic and forgotten what matters most," said Jessie Galvan, sophomore in anthropology. "Whatever present she gets me, I know I will be happy with and [it will] be more than enough. I'm just happy that I can spend Christmas with my girlfriend."

The holidays can be a stressful time of year, but sometimes the best gifts are the ones money can't buy. Spending time with your

partner can be a gift in and of itself.

*Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism*

and Mass Communications.

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## TRIP | Use MP3s, radio to entertain

Continued from page 2

If there is nobody to travel with, there are just as many ways to make your trip interesting.

If you can plug in an MP3 player into your car, then you'll have your entire music collection to keep you entertained. Make some playlists that you think will keep you engaged. Buy some new albums beforehand and save them for the trip in order to give you something to look forward to. You can also download some episodes of your favorite podcasts or audiobooks.

Some cars don't have MP3 player connectivity, but there is still good old-fashioned CDs. A handy pouch that will hang from your sun visor will make your discs readily available so that you don't have to go digging for them.

Of course, there is also the radio. Many stations stream online, so you can try the station out before the trip in order to know if it's what you want to listen to or not. Are you a fan of Christmas music? Hate it? Either way, searching for stations online will allow you to tell which stations are playing holiday tunes so you may tune in or avoid it at your leisure.

When at a total loss for something to do, you can always channel surf. As long as you don't let it distract from your driving, channel surfing can be a journey of its own. Maybe you'll stumble upon your new favorite song. Maybe you'll find a talk show with some interesting content. The feeling of anticipation can keep you from being bored as you enter new areas on your trip.

No matter how you keep entertained, be sure to stay safe. Don't let your companion distract you from the road, don't fumble with the radio so much you ignore traffic and don't search the entire car for a CD.

Have a safe, fun trip.

Jerry Yaussi is a junior in English. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.


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## Best Christmas rap songs: from Run-D.M.C. to Snoop Dog

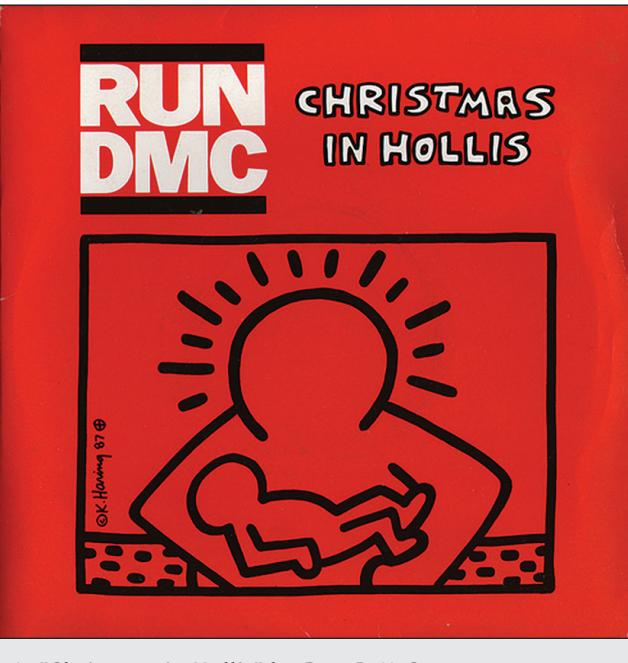


Chris Harrison

Hip-hop and Christmas don't seem like the most natural fit, but several well-known rappers have created some unique takes.

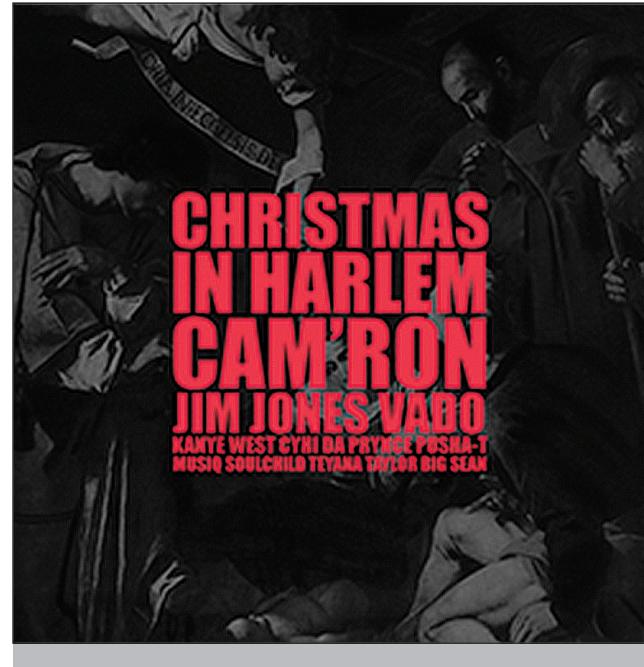
Avoiding corniness is always a challenge, but some artists have managed to write Christmas songs that would fit in with the rest of their catalogue. For those looking for a little more musical variety during the holiday season, here are my top five Christmas rap songs.

Chris Harrison is a senior in marketing. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).



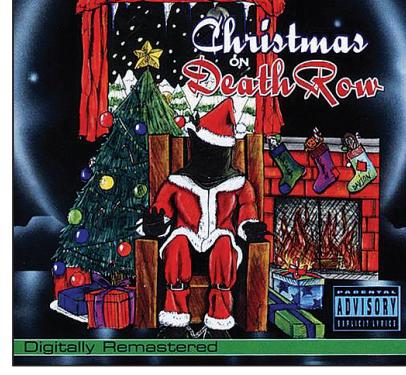
1. "Christmas in Hollis" by Run-D.M.C.

"Christmas in Hollis" is probably the best-known Christmas song in rap history. It begins with Run encountering a reindeer for the first time, (he thought it was a dog) and features samples from other Christmas songs played over a signature Run-D.M.C. drum loop. The lyrics are entirely Christmas-based, but the track would sound right at home in any of their albums.



2. "Christmas in Harlem" by Kanye West

Teyana Taylor sings about snowfall and Christmas trees over a warm, piano-driven instrumental. Kanye dedicates his verse to that special someone, telling her, "You the star at the top of my Christmas tree." The original version of the song has a whopping eight guest artists, each with his own dedication to the holiday, but a shorter version is also available.



4. "Player's Ball" by Outkast

Most people don't know this, but the original version of Outkast's first single, about a gathering of pimps and players, contained numerous references to Christmas throughout before it was changed for the album version. The original song, off of LaFace Records' "A LaFace Family Christmas," ended the chorus with, "the player's ball is happenin' on Christmas Day."

Christmas is alluded to throughout, including references to stores being closed, eggnog and the year nearing its end as Big Boi raps, "ain't no chimneys in the ghetto so I won't be hanging my socks."

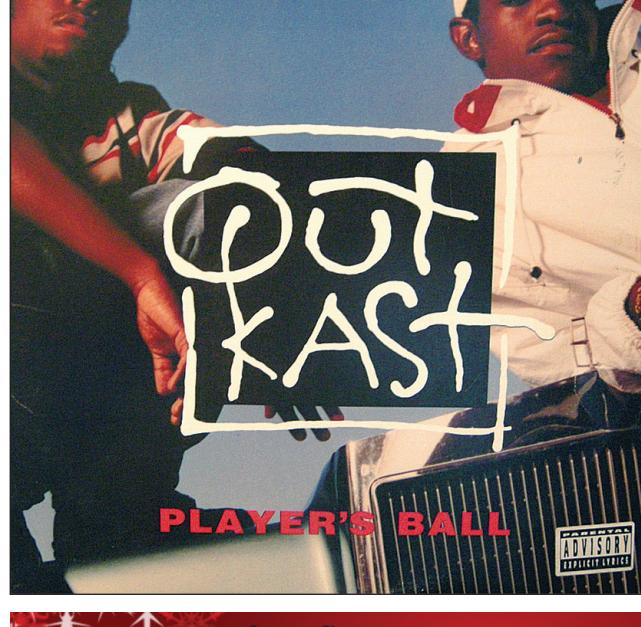


3. "Ghostface X-Mas" by Ghostface Killah

Ghostface Killah, of Wu-Tang Clan fame, delivers a shockingly cheery Christmas song. He forgoes his usually dark, violent style and rhymes instead about "wooden soldiers and chestnuts, roasting like marshmallows/Goodfellas, chocolate pudding pops and Jell-Os." Ghostface even describes himself throughout the song as a Santa Claus-like figure that gives coal to bad kids.

**Everybody has an opinion.**

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5. "Santa Claus Goes Straight to the Ghetto" by Snoop Dogg

This song, off Death Row Records' "Christmas on Death Row" collection, (which I still can't believe exists) is named after an old James Brown classic and flows smoothly over a funky bassline. Snoop Dogg and his guests describe what Christmas meant to them when they were kids growing up poor.

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